

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 8, 32, 33, 35, 38, 39 and 46-54 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Bouwkamp U.S. Patent 3,342,445. Claims 8, 32, 34, 35, 38, 46, 47, 49-51, 53 and 54 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Ladyman U.S. Patent 2,812,614. Claims 36, 37 and 40-45 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over either Bouwkamp or Ladyman.

The Bouwkamp reference discloses a foot for a tubular chair leg. The foot, shown at 12, includes a skirt 13 terminating in a base portion 14, along with a tapered attachment neck portion 15 having a segmented construction. Neck portion 15 is received within the lower portion of the leg tube 11. An expansion pin 19 is driven into passageways 18 and 17 formed in skirt portion 13 and neck portion 15, respectively, to force the segments of neck portion 15 outwardly into engagement with the internal surface of leg tube 11. In one form, foot 12 includes a rim 22 and ring segments 23 and 24, which function to mount a downwardly facing metal glide 21. In another form, a glide 27 is formed integrally with the base of expansion pin 26.

The Ladyman reference discloses a suction cup arrangement mounted to the lower end of each of a series of chair legs 16. Each suction cup arrangement includes a hollow cylindrical shank 26 which abuts a flange 23 at the lower end of the chair leg. An externally threaded foot 29 extends through an opening 27 in the suction cup 25, and is screwed into an internally threaded opening 24 at the lower end of the tubular element 20.

The claims have been amended in a manner believed to patentably define over the references.

Claim 8 is amended to state that the base of the article of furniture has a lower portion that extends generally parallel to a support surface such as a floor. The lower portion of the base is defined as terminating in an end that includes a laterally facing opening, and wall structure having one or more interior surfaces that define a laterally extending internal passage extending inwardly from the opening. The glide member of the glide arrangement is defined as including a laterally facing opening within which the end of the lower portion of the base is received, and including glide wall structure that defines the laterally facing opening. Claim 8 is further amended to state that the glide wall structure defines a downwardly facing lower engagement surface configured to be spaced below the lower portion of the base and to engage the support surface. Claim 8 further states that the glide wall structure defines an annular area which engages the wall structure at the end of the base. The end cap of the glide arrangement is defined as having a cap portion and an engagement section, which is configured to pass through the laterally facing opening in the glide member and into the laterally extending passage defined by the end of the lower portion of the base. The cap portion of the end cap is defined as being engageable with the annular area defined by the glide wall structure for enclosing the laterally facing opening of the glide member.

The subject matter of amended claim 8 is not shown or suggested by either Bouwkamp or Ladymen.

In Bouwkamp, the neck portion of the glide is received within the internal passage defined by the leg. This is in direct contrast to the structure of the present invention as defined in claim 8, which specifically states that the glide member includes a laterally facing opening within which the end of the lower portion of the base is received. In addition, claim 8 specifically states that the engagement section of the end cap passes through the laterally facing opening in the glide member and into the laterally extending passage defined by the lower portion of the base, into engagement with the one or more

interior surfaces that define the laterally extending internal passage. Again, this is distinct from the disclosure of Bouwkamp, which contemplates an expansion pin 19 or 26 that engages the neck portion of the glide member to force the segments of the neck portion outwardly, and does not itself come into contact with the interior surfaces of the leg.

As to the Ladyman reference, claim 8 is amended to state that the glide member includes a laterally facing opening within which the end of the lower portion of the base is received. This is distinct from the disclosure of Ladyman, which contemplates a glide member having an upwardly facing opening within which the lower end of the leg is received. Furthermore, claim 8 specifies that the glide wall structure defines a downwardly facing lower engagement surface that is configured to engage the support surface. With this arrangement, the end of the base extends through the laterally facing opening of the glide member, and the downwardly facing lower engagement surface of the glide member engages the support surface. This is distinct from the disclosure of Ladyman, which contemplates an upwardly facing opening and a downwardly facing support area.

For the above reasons, amended claim 8 is believed to patentably define over both Bouwkamp and Ladyman. A review of the remaining references of record similarly fails to show or suggest the claimed subject matter, and accordingly claim 8 is believed allowable.

Claims 32-39 depend directly or indirectly from claim 8, and are believed allowable for the above reasons as well as in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Independent claims 40, 46 and 53 have also been amended to emphasize the feature of the glide arrangement of the present invention as noted above. For the

same reasons as previously set forth, it is believed that claims 40, 46 and 53 also patentably define over the Bouwkamp and Ladyman references, and are allowable along with respective dependent claims 41-45, 47-52 and 54.

Applicant's attorney has made every effort to place the application into condition for allowance with claims 8 and 32-54, and such action is earnestly requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by phone if questions remain after consideration of this response, or if such would otherwise facilitate prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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